

The Rambler

Newsletter of the
Rose Hill Civic Association

President's Message

Election, Kindercare, Budget on March 23 RHCA Agenda

The Rose Hill Civic Association will elect officers for 2010, discuss proposed hours of operation for the Kindercare on May Boulevard and finalize its position on the Fairfax County budget at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 23. The meeting will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. in the community room of the John Marshall Library. Also on the agenda is a presentation by the Friends of John Marshall Library.

The Board of Supervisors will set the tax rate for this year sometime in late April. More information is available in a later article. Bring your questions and opinions with you Tuesday night. Refreshments will be served.

The Kindercare facility on May Boulevard has asked the County for a Special Exception to continue its current operation. The approval previously in place allowed operations to be conducted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At its January meeting, RHCA asked that the hours be limited to those currently observed by Kindercare. The owner of the property previously had indicated he did not want to give up the 24/7 approval. However, things have changed and we expect to be presented with an agreement on

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hours and days more in line with our concerns. RHCA has voiced no objections to continuing the operation as long as the hours are consistent with the current practice.

The election is mandated by our bylaws. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Only members are eligible to vote. If your name is not listed in this month's Rambler and you wish to vote, fill out a membership form and bring it, along with your check, to the meeting. The current officers will stand for reelection.

Budget, Tax Update

On Monday, March 8, the Board of Supervisors voted to advertise a tax rate for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2010 that would raise the 2009 rate (\$1.04) by eight cents to \$1.12 per \$100 of assessed real estate property value. The County Executive earlier had presented a budget with a \$1.09 per hundred tax rate but proposed the Board advertise an eight cent increase in order to maintain flexibility in changes to the budget. Of course, the County Executive's proposed cuts set off a firestorm of protest from special interests that no doubt will be heard at the public hearings on the budget April 6, 7 and 8. What does all this mean to the taxpayer? Real estate assessments have declined approximately six (6) percent. If the eight-cent increase were to be adopted, that means the average taxpayer's bill would increase by approximately \$81. If the five-cent increase is adopted, the average bill would decrease approximately \$49.00. In addition, the

**Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 6:30 pm
JOHN MARSHALL LIBRARY**

Topics: Election, Kindercare, Budget

RHCA Officers

- President: Carl Sell, 703.971.4716, sellcarl@aol.com
- Vice President: Linda Nichols, 703.971.0755, dovefellow@aol.com
- Secretary: Beth Kohm, 703.338.4876, beth.kohm@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Carolyn Slenska, 703.922.4135, carolyn.slenska@lycos.com
- Editor, *The Rambler*: Richard Downey, 703.625.7046, richtdowney@gmail.com
- Neighborhood Watch: Woody Betts, 703.971.0520, rosehillwatch@aol.com
- Webmaster: Jim Sapp, jimsapp7@msn.com

RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310

proposed budget includes a \$33 'sticker' fee for each vehicle and a 77-cent increase in the sewer service fee per 1,000 gallons from \$4.50 to \$5.27. The personal property rate will remain at \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed value.

On two occasions, the Rose Hill Civic Association has voiced its preference to maintain the total tax bills the same as last year, realizing that although their property values would fall, tax bills would not. The Association preferred NOT to cut funds necessary for public safety and noted that while schools accounted for 54 percent of the total budget, other agencies were being asked to bear the brunt of reductions.

We will finalize our community position on the budget at the March 23 meeting. This is our chance for homeowners to be heard by the Board of Supervisors who will be overwhelmed by special interests at the upcoming hearings. Please join us and participate in this important debate.

Last Call for Membership

Or membership drive for 2010 ends this month, although we'll accept new members at any time! It is important that we end the first quarter with enough memberships and donations to continue our work through the rest of the year. We don't EVER get enough memberships to pay all the bills, so we depend on the added support of those who join. Remember, there will be NO Rambler if we don't have enough members to pay the bills. We operate on a shoestring with volunteer labor. Our fixed costs are the printing of the Rambler, post office box, and Virginia corporation fee. We support the Rose Hill Beauty programs (signs for members only) and several local organizations. The funds for the plantings and maintenance of the entrance sign come from donations (THANK YOU). It has been suggested that we raise our dues to pay for all that we do. It would take an amendment to our bylaws to raise the dues, so that isn't coming anytime soon. Most people I talk to think they are members of RHCA even if they haven't joined. Please support the organization that supports your community. All we ask is \$10 plus whatever donation you feel appropriate. The membership form is on page 4 OR, you can print one online at myrosehill.com.

Beauties and Beasts

We'll be looking for Rose Hill Beauties starting in late April. Properties that are well maintained and owned or occupied by members will receive the coveted Rose Hill Beauty sign. All properties selected will

be listed in the Rambler. If you earn a sign, make sure you are a member. At the same time we are looking for beauties, we'll be looking for problem properties. Violations of County ordinances will be reported to the proper agency. If you have trash or an inoperable vehicle on your property, please make sure it is removed this spring. If you don't cut the grass, the County will do it for you and send you a large bill. We also will be looking for overcrowding in violation of the occupancy rules. Rose Hill is zoned R-3 which is described as a single-family community. Subdivision of houses for separate multi occupancy is illegal. Please help maintain the value of all our homes by keeping your property looking good.

A Hidden Treasure

The Washington Examiner featured Rose Hill on the first page of its Real Estate section on Thursday, March 4, 2010. If you missed the article, go to myrosehill.com and click on the electronic version listed under Rose Hill news. The article was very well done and was a huge plus for our community. Those of us at RHCA like to think our collective efforts help make our community a 'hidden treasure'. It's nice to be recognized. We also are thrilled to have Connie Beatty as our spokesperson. And, no, I didn't ask her for that wonderful plug (where do I send the check, Connie?). You'd be surprised at the number of inquiries we get about Rose Hill from persons who are interested in buying a home here. The word has gotten around that Rose Hill is a great and convenient place to live. We are serious about keeping it that way. Make sure you support our efforts by joining RHCA in 2010.

Beware of Spring Scams

Both RHCA and the police remind you that spring brings out the scammers who want to trim your trees, resurface your driveway, repair your roof, etc., etc. Reputable business people aren't out knocking on doors as they obtain work by advertising and word of mouth about a job well come. If someone does come to your door, ask to see their Fairfax County solicitor's license. If they don't have one, call the police non emergency number at 703.691.2131. If you can get a license number of their vehicle, so much the better. The police have a long list of horror stories about work being paid for and not being completed or being substandard. If you need work done, ask your neighbors or business professional group for references. We have a number of excellent businesses here in Rose Hill that stand ready to assist their neighbors at a fair price.

Crime Statistics

The Fairfax County Police report that overall crime decreased by 4.5 percent in 2009. There were almost 1,000 fewer incidents than 2008. The only category that increased was for rape, which went from 95 cases in 2008 to 105 in 2009. There were 14 murders as compared with 22 the previous year. Robbery decreased from 450 to 386, aggravated assault from 386 to 309, burglary from 1,438 to 1,385, larceny from 16,244 to 15,645 and car thefts from 1,288 to 1,096. The police attribute the overall decline to a focus on repeat offenders, who historically commit a high percentage of crimes. Colonel David Rohrer, Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department, said he was particularly pleased with the 15 percent decrease in violent crime. Here in Rose Hill, we thank our diligent members of Neighborhood Watch who help keep us safe. If you would like to join the watchers, give me a call. The more we have, the less chance there is that a crime will occur.

- Carl Sell



The Tax Man Cometh

Just as sure as we were that the snow would finally melt we knew this day would come. April 15. Be sure your tax returns or extensions are **postmarked** by midnight **April 15, 2010**.

Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs - the musical presented by Rose Hill Elementary School

All our old friends, plus a few new ones, are here in this marvelous musical adaptation. We'll meet the captivating Princess Snow White, the prince, the evil queen and, of course, the seven mischievous dwarfs – Sarge, Gabby, Gloomy Gus, Ticklish, Spritely, Snore, and Slowpoke. There's also a hilarious palace cat and an enchanted vixen – a fox, you could say! Following the traditional storyline, the fairy tale is brought to life with an eclectic score of toe-tapping tunes.

This is a full-scale, musical production performed by K-6th graders with beautiful sets and costumes. The show is suitable for all ages.

When: Friday, April 9, 2010 at 7:00 pm & Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 7:00 pm

Where: Hayfield Secondary School (7630 Telegraph Rd., Alexandria, VA)

Tickets: available at the door (Adults \$5; Children \$3. Concessions available for purchase.)

Making Sense of the Census

It's hard to believe another decade is in the books! As a requirement of The United States Constitution, every household in America and Puerto Rico will receive a Census form. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided.

Why answer the Census? The Census, conducted every 10 years per the Constitution, affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

If you haven't received your Census package yet, look for it in the coming weeks.

ROSE HILL CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 19, 2010

Nouri & Suham Abbou, 6115 Rose Hill Drive
Wilmer & Nancy Anderson, 4500 Appletree Drive
Rebecca Bagdasian, 6214 Driftwood Drive
Frank & Rayma Bale, 6315 Willowood Lane
P.G. Bauserman, 4531 Round Hill Road
Daniel & Ingrid Bearth, 6417 Rose Hill Drive
Connie Beatty, 6428 Rose Hill Drive
Sandra Benarick, 6270 Rose Hill Drive
Philip & Carol Bishop, 6310 Climbhill Road
Jeannette Bottomley, 5003 Eastchester Circle
Gary J. Bravy, 6214 Climbhill Road
Bob Brown, 4526 Apple Tree Drive
Mark Broxterman, 6424 Haystack Road
Tracy Campbell, 6402 Cottonwood Drive
Maureen & Jason Cardone, 6418 Willowood Lane
Ralph & Pauline Carrico, 6112 Leewood Drive
Jon & Penn Cashmire, 4907 Silo Road
Roger & Carol Christensen, 6409 Maryview Street
Bob Ciccotelli, 6511 Haystack Road
Helen Coffey, 6218 Saddle Tree Drive
Sally Coler, 6401 Hayfield Place
Jane & Margo Cunniffe, 4609 Mayor Place
Matthew & Cynthia Dailey, 5009 Eastchester Circle
Matt Downey, 6516 Telegraph Road
Betty Elliott, 6411 Maryview Street
Bernice Evans, 6411 Willowood Lane
Susan Feagley, 4705 Split Rock Road
Anna Fish, 6301 Cottonwood Drive
Trigg Flannagan, 6514 Haystack Road
Rati Friend/Michael Smith, 6111 Leewood Drive
Rosemarie & Mike Field, 4426 Roundhill Road
Larry & Connie Fulk, 6410 Cottonwood Drive
Barry & Zoe-Ann Freitag, 6303 May Boulevard
Janice Gable, 6404 Willowood Lane
Mike & Bonnie Greek, 6330 Willowood Lane
Joanna Guccione, 6013 Leewood Drive
Chris & Susie Guinto, 6515 Haystack Road
Carole, Sal & Joanna Guzzetta, 6407 May Boulevard
Theresa Harper, 6506 Carriage Drive
Robert & Shirley Herr, 6103 Leewood Drive
L. Hestvik, 4515 Sturbridge Place
Don & Lynn Hoffman, 5002 Treetop Lane
Alice Holloman, 4518 Sturbridge Place
Emily Hood, 5012 Treetop Lane
D. J. Jamison, 4707 Split Rock Road
F. Jencks, 6416 Willowood Lane
Marvin & Fran Justice, 6402 Rose Hill Drive
Jean & Davood Kalkhoran, 6112 Clovergrass Drive
Audrey Kick, 4517 Sturbridge Place

Cedric Lack, 6330 Rose Hill Drive
Mildred Lane, 6410 May Boulevard
Craig & Jessica Llewellyn, 6011 Leewood Drive
Edward & Anna Lewis, 6117 Leewood Drive
James Lockwood, 6114 Clovergrass Drive
Jamey & David Lord, 6208 Redwood Lane
Wellington & Ann Machmer, 6200 Willowood Lane
Raymond & Evelyn Market, 4608 Mayor Place
Mary Mayo, 61221 Leewood Drive
Mike & Jo Ann McLean, 6433 Carriage Drive
Dolores McKinney, 6303 Cottonwood Drive
George & Susan McKittrick, 6113 Clovergrass Drive
Donald & Nancy McMinn, 4804 Apple Tree Drive
Marion Messinger, 6603 Cottonwood Drive
Mimi Minarik, 6518 Telegraph Road
Edna Mitchell, 6305 May Boulevard
J. Niedermeyer, 6500 Haystack Road
Herbert & Grace Newman, 4910 Silo Road
But The Nguyen, 6512 Rose Hill Drive
Dave & Linda Nichols, 6416 Rose Hill Drive
Conrad & Haydee Oroc, 4703 Split Rock Road
William & Janelle Parker, 6417 Willowood Lane
Jo Ann Ponce, 6203 Willowood Lane
Monica Reed, 6422 Rose Hill Drive
Adam & Rita Rice, 6431 Carriage Drive
James & Nancy Richey, 4402 Roundhill Road
David & Nancy Ridgway, 4609 Cottonwood Place
G. Miller, L. Seiss, 6415 Willowood Lane
Carl & Marti Sell, 6601 Cottonwood Drive
James & Marie Sherfey, 6415 Rose Hill Drive
Marlene Hass Smith, 6304 Cottonwood Drive
William & Jean Stemple, 6306 Cottonwood Drive
Ray Stone, 4528 Roundhill Road
Thomas Strah, 6421 Rose Hill Drive
Mary C. Stinnette, 4520 Apple Tree Drive
Terence Stone, 4522 Apple Tree Drive
Tinker & Don Szamborski, 4615 Winston Place
Judy Taylor, 6503 Rose Hill Drive
Linda & Rex Taylor, 6505 Haystack Road
Joanne Thompson
Jean Thomson, 6302 Cottonwood Drive
James W. Troy, 5004 Eastchester Circle
Paul Turner, 4414 Roundhill Road
Angie & Derek Vereen, 6222 Thornwood Drive
Linda and Lauck Walton, 4900 Silo Road
Don & Nina Weber, 6120 Dew Grass Drive
Louise Westgate & Rick, 6708 Greendale Road
Karen Wheelless, 6709 Greendale Road
Jeffrey Williams, 6121 Dew Grass Drive
Jamie & Pam Yereb, 4617 Winston Place

To join or renew your membership in the Rose Hill Civic Association...

Please fill out this form or online at myRoseHill.com and mail, along with your check, to the

RHCA, P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310.

If you have questions, feel free to call any of the officers.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is a check for:

\$10 Membership

\$___ Donation for upkeep and landscaping of the Rose Hill entrance sign

\$___ Donation for RHCA General Fund

Rose Hill Community Calendar

Around Rose Hill

- ★ **Tuesday, March 23, 6:30pm.** Rose Hill Civic Association Meeting. John Marshall Library. Topics: Election, Kindercare, Budget
- ★ **Every Wednesday and Saturday.** BINGO! Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept. Early Bird, 7pm. Regular sessions, 8pm.

John Marshall Library

6209 Rose Hill Dr., 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events. Hours: M, T, W – 10am-8pm; Th, F – 10am-6pm; Sat – 10am-5pm.

- ★ **Ongoing Event.** Personalized Computer Training. Basics for beginners: Internet and Microsoft Word. Call for appointment. Adults.
- ★ **April 4.** Fairfax County Libraries are CLOSED for the Easter holiday.
- ★ **April 5.** Become a Friend. 7:00 pm. Meet with the Friend of the John Marshall Library and hear ways you can become involved in your neighborhood library.
- ★ **April 9.** Lunch Bunch. 12:00 pm. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Ages birth-5 w/ adult.
- ★ **April 12.** Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30-4:15 pm. Join us for early-reader book activities. Please call for title. Ages 6-8 w/ adult.
- ★ **April 13.** Fun for Twos and Threes. 10:30-11:00 am. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 w/ adult.
- ★ **April 17.** Tickle Tales to Rattle Your Funny Bone. 10:30 am. Silly stories from storyteller Gary Lloyd to chase away April showers! All Ages.
- ★ **April 19.** Read to the dog. 3:30 pm, 3:45 pm, 4:00 pm, 4:15 pm. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Ages 6-12.
- ★ **April 20** Mother-daughter book group. 7:00-8:00 pm. Join us for a lively book discussion. Ages 9-11 w/ adult.
- ★ **April 21.** Book Discussion Group. 6:30-8:00 pm. Please call for title. Adults.
- ★ **April 23.** Lunch Bunch. 12:00 pm. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Ages birth-5 w/ adult.

Thomas Edison High School

5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310; Office – 703.924.8000; Fax – 703.924.8097



- ★ **May 15 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Got Hope Walk-a-Thon. Come out to the SGA-sponsored event benefiting the American Cancer Society and CrisisLink for suicide prevention. Registration is now open for the event.
Visit our website, www.gothopewalkathon.com, for details

on registration, to sign up for our email newsletter, and to read about the history of the walk.

- ★ **Volunteer Opportunity.** Edison High School is looking for volunteers to help with the All Night Graduation Party - a party to congratulate seniors and to make sure they stay safe on graduation night. Contact Betsy Flanigan at betsyflanigan@aol.com or 703.971.5237 to get involved!

Mark Twain Middle School

4700 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, 22310; Office – 703.313.3700, Fax – 703.313.3797



- ★ **April 16.** Play production - *Annie* - Mark Twain Middle School, 7:30-9:30 pm
- ★ **April 17.** Play production - *Annie* - Mark Twain Middle School, 2:00-4:00 pm & 7:30-9:30 pm
- ★ **April 18.** Play production - *Annie* - Mark Twain Middle School, 3:30-5:30 pm

Rose Hill Elementary School

6301 Rose Hill Dr., Phone: 703.313.4200
Fax: 703.313.4297

- ★ **March 25.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
Thursday Evening Tutoring, Library, 7:00 pm
- ★ **March 29.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
- ★ **March 29 through April 2.** SPRING BREAK!



- ★ **April 1.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Thursday Evening Tutoring, Library, 7:00 pm
- ★ **April 5.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
- ★ **April 8.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
Thursday Evening Tutoring, Library, 7:00 pm
- ★ **April 12.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
- ★ **April 15.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
Thursday Evening Tutoring, Library, 7:00 pm
- ★ **April 19.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
- ★ **April 22.** Play Rehearsal, Gym, 3:30-5:00 pm
Thursday Evening Tutoring, Library, 7:00-8:30 pm

Rose Hill Business Directory

Only those residents who are members of the Rose Hill Civic Association or provide services in kind will qualify for a free listing in the business directory. Membership dues are the source of funds for the printing of The Rambler. A membership form for 2010 is included in this issue.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Fabrications – graphics and designs, LLC. Websites, invitations, flyers, announcements, menus, business cards, brochures, newsletters, mailers, books, proposals, journals, and all your editing, printing, paper, and digital needs. Marty Williams, Desktop Specialist, has more than 13 years experience and can be reached at 703.910.6316, or marty@fabrications.us. She is the former Editor of *The Rambler*.

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Dove Heating and Air Conditioning. We service and install heat pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, hot water heaters, and humidifiers. David and Linda Nichols, 703.971.8897. The Nichols have been in business for 24 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 34 years.

REAL ESTATE

Exit Metro Realty. Angie Vereen, 571-233-6395, angie@exitmetroliving.com. Our extensive experience and expertise in the Alexandria, Lorton, and Vienna real estate market will benefit you whether you are looking to buy or sell a home in the area. Licensed in Virginia and Maryland.

LAWN SERVICES

Fortney Lawn & Garden. David and Jimmy Fortney, 703.960.8869. Although they live in Virginia Hills, the Fortneys work closely with RHCA to maintain the median landscaping on Rose Hill Drive.

Dans Lawn & Leaf. Daniel and David Bishop, 703.719.7806. Fast, friendly, affordable service. Serving the Rose Hill community for 7 years.

Freedom Lawn & Landscape. Matt Downey, 571.218.2881, freedomproviders@gmail.com. Proud to provide our customers with high quality services at affordable prices. Family has lived in Rose Hill for nearly 50 years. Discount for RHCA members! Free estimates for all. You Deserve Freedom!

Advertising in *The Rambler*

Listing in the Business Directory is free to Rose Hill residents who are members and own their business, but placing an actual advertisement is open to all with rates per month as follows:

- ★ Business card: 3 1/2" x 2", \$10
- ★ Quarter page: 3 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$25
- ★ Half page: 7 1/2" x 4 3/4", \$50
- ★ Full page: 7 1/2" x 9 3/4", \$100

Ads may be bought for either one month only, month-to-month, or as many months in advance as desired. Our newsletter is published 9 times a year, excluding July, August, and December.

Advertising in *The Rambler* is an excellent way to reach the 700+ homes in our community. In addition, the ads are placed on our website, www.myRoseHill.com, for the world to see.

Anyone interested in placing an ad may call me at 703.625.7046. Artwork can be sent to richtdowney@gmail.com in tiff or jpeg format or hardcopy mailed to P.O. Box 10891, Alexandria, VA 22310. Checks made out to RHCA should be included with ads and sent to the P.O. Box.

—Richard Downey

Free All Day Yoga Open House



Walk-ins Welcome

Saturday, March 13th

- 9:00-9:45am* – Beginner Yoga
- 10:15-11:00am* – Yoga Flow
- 11:30am-12:15pm* – Fiery Sun Stretch
- 1:00-1:45pm* – Restorative Fitness Yoga (Gentle)
- 2:00-3:00pm – Yoga Reception

* Please arrive 15 minutes before each class.



ignite the fire within

Free Giveaways!

Hollin Hall Senior Center
1500 Shenandoah Road, RM 218
Alexandria, VA 22308

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